

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 EB-08

COME-00 /110 W

-----112364 210405Z /16

R 200901Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9766

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13153

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: VM, US, GE, ASEAN

SUBJECT: GDR AMBASSADOR'S SOUNDINGS ON HIEN VISIT

REF: A. TOKYO 13152

1. GDR AMBASSADOR BRIE INVITED POLCOUNS FOR COFFEE JULY 20
ON EVE OF BRIE'S RETURN ON TWO MONTHS' LEAVE TO GDR, INDICATING
IN ADVANCE HE HAD ONE OR TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO
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ASK. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM DRIFT OF CONVERSATION THERE WAS
ONLY ONE MATTER OF SIGNIFICANCE ON HIS MIND (MEMCON WILL
COVER MISCELLANY). BRIE ASKED HOW U.S. INTENDED TO RESPOND
TO HIEN'S NEW "SOFT POLICY" TOWARD U.S. -- WOULD WE NOW
ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS? POLCOUNS RESPONDED THAT
WE OF COURSE HAD REPORTED CAREFULLY HIEN'S REMARKS IN TOKYO
AND WERE AWARE OF HIS STATEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEA-

LAND, BUT THIS WAS MATTER WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSESSED IN WASHINGTON. THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME AMBIGUITY AT LEAST AS TO WHETHER SRV IN FACT INTENDED TO DROP PRE-CONDITIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. BRIE RESPONDED BY ASKING RHETORICALLY WHETHER WE EXPECTED "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER," AND, JOKINGLY, WHETHER "U.S. INTENDED TO LEAVE VIETNAM TO US." IN HIS VIEW SRV WOULD SETTLE FOR SOME SORT OF GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT WHEREBY THE US WOULD PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID ONCE RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED, AND HE DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN ANY SUCH UNDERSTANDING AND "CONDITIONS" FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BRIE SAID HE ASSUMED IT WAS IN U.S. INTEREST TO HAVE VIETNAM ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT TOWARD THIS END U.S. WOULD WISH IN THE END TO GRANT ECONOMIC AID TO HANOI. BRIE WAS AT PAINS TO UNDERSCORE THAT HIEN HAD UNDERTAKEN A NEW INITIATIVE. POLCOUNS MERELY REPEATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT SUBTLETIES OF HIEN'S REMARKS AND HE WAS IN NO POSITION TO EVALUATE WHAT IT ADDED UP TO.

2. COMMENT: TAKEN TOGETHER WITH SOVIET COMMENTS REFTTEL, IT IS CLEAR A CONCERTED EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO MAKE SURE WE GET A MESSAGE. MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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